both cases, and the operation was repeated in the first, five, and again in fourteen days afterwards, and in the second, twenty-four days after the first operation; in both there was an apparent immediate improvement, but no cure. (This was also the case in a similar treatment of a case of stupid melancholia by Leidesdorff, where the patient, immediately after the operation, broke his silence of a week's duration, and otherwise changed from his former condition). In no case have uncomfortable symptoms been the result of transfusion.

Monobromide of Camphor.—At the *seance* of the Soc. de Therap., Jan. 27 (reported in *Bull. Gen. de Therap.*), M. Trasbot, Professor at Alfort, reported that he had experimented with the bromide of camphor on animals, and obtained results disagreeing with those reported by M. Bourneville.

He first administered bromide of camphor in dogs suffering from epilepsy and chorea, and obtained no relief in the nervous symptoms; the dose at first ten centigrammes (= 1.5 grains) was raised to fifty centigrammes, and even to one gramme (= 15 grains) in the dog. In another series of experiments instituted to study the action of the drug, he never observed the least somnolence or the slightest lowering of the pulse or temperature. This medicine always produced, on the other hand, in doses of fifty centigrammes to one gramme, well marked symptoms of excitement, and true convulsive attacks, altogether comparable to those produced by strychnia, so that, from his experiments, bromide of camphor should be considered as a tetanizing poison.

M. Dujardin-Beaumetz reported that he had given the drug many times, but his testimony was not strongly in favor of its value. In hysteria, the results were uncertain; in epilepsy they were completely *nul.* In affections of the genito-urinary organs, spermatorrhœa, for example, it acted more as a camphorated preparation than as a bromide.

Croton Chloral.—The following are some of the conclusions of a paper by Dr. Weill (*Thèse de Paris*, abstracted in *Bull. Gen. de Thérap.*) on this agent:

1. Its physiological action is different from that of chloral.
2. It is hypnotic in the same way, and generally in smaller quantity than the other drug.
3. It exercises a special action on the sensory cranial nerves.
4. In moderate doses, it has no effect on the pulsations of the heart, and on the muscular tonicity, and it does not slow the respiration and lower the temperature as much as chloral.
5. In extreme doses, it destroys life by arresting the respiration.
6. The lesions found at the autopsy of animals killed by it, consist in an intense hyperæmia of the meninges, especially those of the encephalon.
7. Its therapeutical employment is indicated:

a. In neuralgias of the trigeminus;

b. In other neuralgias, and to relieve pain in general;

c. In spasmodic affections of the nervous system;

d. To quiet cough in certain chronic affections of the respiratory organs;

e. To procure sleep.

8. The contra-indications to its employment, are an inflammatory state of the digestive organs, and a predisposition to cerebral congestions.

9. Its taste is more disagreeable than that of chloral, and needs to be masked by a corrective. The extract of liquorice seems best for this purpose.

10. It cannot be given hypodermically.

11. The dose should vary according to the age, the particular susceptibility of each person, and the effects desired. Dr. Weill says: "If we wish only to procure sleep, we can begin with from seven to fifteen grains, and in the great majority of cases this will be sufficient; at least when the pains are not such as to make large doses of a narcotic absolutely indispensable. In such cases, we may administer at once, thirty, forty-five, or even sixty grains.

"In the neuralgias or other nervous affections, the practice of the English physicians is especially applicable: one, one and a half, or three grains repeated every quarter of an hour, every half hour, or every hour, until relief is obtained; and we are often astonished at the rapidity with which it comes."

DAMIANA.—Dr. J. J. Caldwell (*Va. Medical Monthly*, May) calls attention to a new remedy, a Mexican plant called damiana (the botanical name is not given), which seems to have, according to his testimony, a very powerful stimulant effect on the uro-genital apparatus, in both sexes. He gives four cases of complete or partial impotence and irritability, which readily yielded to the effects of the drug. He employs the tincture and fluid extract.

It would seem that there is something worthy of investigation in the alleged virtues of this plant.

PICROTOXINE AND CHLORAL HYDRATE.—The following are the general conclusions of a series of investigations on the physiological action of picrotoxine, the active principle of cocculus Indicus, by Dr. J. Crichton Browne, and published in several numbers of the *British Medical Journal*, the concluding article appearing May 24th:

1. Chloral hydrate is physiologically antagonistic to picrotoxine, in rabbits and Guinea pigs; and will, when administered in a suitable and proportionate dose, save life after a fatal dose of picrotoxine.

2. The antagonism of chloral hydrate to picrotoxine in rabbits and Guinea pigs, may be exerted so as to save life, even when it is not administered until fifteen or twenty minutes after the fatal dose of picrotoxine.

3. The antagonism of chloral hydrate to picrotoxine is subject to two limitations: *a*, That the dose of picrotoxine may be so large as to kill before the chloral hydrate has time to operate; *b*, That the dose of picrotoxine may be so large that nothing short of a poisonous dose of chloral hydrate would avail to counteract it.

4. Picrotoxine is to a very limited extent antagonistic to chloral hydrate, in rabbits and Guinea pigs, by mitigating the hypnotic effects of the latter upon the brain and higher nervous centres, which it stimulates to activity.